

2625 North King Street Flagstaff, Arizona 86004 TEL 928.679-7272 FAX 928.679-7270

## News Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Trish Lees

928-679-7331

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## **National Volunteer Week 2009**

April 19 – 25 is National Volunteer Week. This year's theme, "Celebrating People in Action" captures the meaning behind this signature week – honoring the individuals who dedicate themselves to taking action and solving problems in their communities. It is also an opportunity for those interested in participating in volunteer opportunities to join the efforts of local organizations.

For those interested in getting involved as a volunteer, the Coconino County Health Department is recruiting for the Coconino County Medical Reserve Corp. (MRC). MRC units are community-based and function as a way to locally organize and utilize volunteers—medical professionals and others—who want to donate their time and expertise to prepare for and respond to emergencies. MRC volunteers supplement existing local emergency and public health resources.

The Coconino County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) was established by the Coconino County Health Department to supplement existing resources and to help make our community more resilient in the event of a disaster. The MRC consists of a dedicated group of local healthcare professionals who contribute their skills and expertise to participate in community preparedness and respond in times of disaster.

MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals such as physicians, nurses, medical assistants, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, veterinarians, Veterinarian technicians, and dentists. Local MRC members work with the Coconino County Health Department and Emergency Services Office to support local public health initiatives.

To obtain an application or for more information, call the Coconino County Health Department at 928-679-7272 (toll-free 1-877-679-7272) or visit www.coconino.az.gov/health and follow the MRC link.